



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

NOVEMBER 2003

Advanced Training Weekend
October 2003
Flats Track



[Photographs courtesy of Hayden Oberin]

Annual Car Rally
1st Prize winner James Holden



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)
www.vafwdc.org.au



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2003/2004

President	John Partridge
Vice President	Ian Warburton
Treasurer	Roger Baird
Secretary	Lesley Peters
Assistant Secretary	Stephen Boyle

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

New Member Contact	George Pledger	9547 4021
Trip Coordinator	Ashley Martin	
Social Secretary	Rosalie Hughes	
Projects Coordinator	Carl Surtees	
Insurance Officer	Gerrard Clarke	
Librarian	Barry Leitch	
Web Manager	Anthony van Buiten	
Association Delegate	John Partridge	
Club Historian	Phil Alder	
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	
	Ashley Martin	
	John Partridge	
	Peter Pink	
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters	lesleyp@raptorinternational.com

Registered Name: Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No: A002184F

All correspondence: The Secretary
VFWDC Inc
PO Box 778
Dandenong Vic 3175

Web Site: www.vfwdc.com

Meetings: Held first Tuesday of each month
excluding January (no meeting). The
November meeting is held on the 2nd
Tuesday due to Melbourne Cup.
At Dandenong Library
Stuart Street, Dandenong 3175

*The opinions given herein are those of the individual contributors and
are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Committee of
Management, or the Member body of the VFWDC Inc.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

G'day to all.

Big thanks to the guys at Highway Tyre Service for the effort they put in for our last general meeting. Keep them in mind next time you need some tyres or just want your tyres balanced.

The Advanced Training weekend went well. We had a go at the harder tracks around the O'Tooles area and a bit of winning with the hand-winch in a real-life situation. By the way, if you have your name down for a trip and for some reason you can't make it, no problem, but make sure you let the trip leader know so that they're not left waiting and wondering what's happening for the next 40 minutes or so.

I went to the Association meeting in Bendigo and the local club did a great job of hosting it. We had a bit of a drive on the Saturday morning and lunch was at their training grounds at a local disused quarry where everyone got to have a drive around. The next country meeting is in the Otways next year, so we'll make it into a Club trip and spend the weekend exploring the area and meeting up with members from the other clubs.

There will be a working-bee at the O'Tooles camping ground, but it looks like it won't be until June next year. It is important we show the DSE how much we care for this area and that not all people with 4WD's are senseless idiots, that the members of the 4WD clubs are responsible members of the community who care for the bush. If next time you are in the bush you see someone ripping up the grass etc, get their rego number and report them to the local police or let a member of the committee know and we'll follow it up. Recently there have been several people charged with criminal damage and fined \$850. This issue should not be treated lightly.

See you at the next meeting, the **second** Tuesday in November. Hope everyone has a great Cup weekend.

John

(John Partridge)

Did anyone find out what the longest river in Oz is?

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 7 OCTOBER 2003

Meeting held at Highway Tyre Service Doveton and opened at 9.15pm by John Partridge after tour of factory.

37 members present.

APOLOGIES:

Maggie Melcher, Gary & Paula Johnston, Barry & Yvonne Hempston, Graeme Ralph, Judy Murray, Neil & Norma Stephenson.

VISITORS:

Welcome to Gary & Nicole, Hayden, and David Dawn who is now a member of the Club.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of September meeting as per Newsletter.

Accepted: Murray Ogden.

Seconded: Richard Piotrowski.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS

MINUTES: Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- Membership Renewals from Don & Thelma Montague, Neil & Norma Stephenson, Rod Lee, and James & Kathryn Holden.
- VAFWDC Annual Report.
- Letter from Association with AGM Minutes and notification of next meeting – Bendigo 18 October.
- "4X4 Covernote" – joint TCIS/Association newsletter together with TCIS application forms.
- Letter from Navtrac together with application forms for Navtrac 2003.
- Email reply from Brian Cox confirming Association web site updated with our new contact details.
- "Eureka Echo" – Journal of the Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria.
- "Outback News".
- Various Club Magazines.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- Letter and cheque to City of Greater Dandenong re Library Hall hire.
- Email to Association from John Partridge advising new Club Committee details.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Petty Cash: \$ 108.85
Cheque Account: \$4,530.66
Term Deposit: \$6,797.47

Accepted: Dawn Brown.

Seconded: Steve Pitcher.

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

- Due to time restraints, Ray will report on the Car Rally at the November meeting.
- Next forthcoming trip is the day trip on *Saturday 25 October led by Gerrard Clarke*. As previously reported, minimum 10 vehicles required for this trip to go ahead and numbers were confirmed at the meeting.
- Cup Weekend: John Partridge will lead a trip to Collins Hut/Dargo area.

ASSOCIATION REPORT: N/A.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- VFWDC Flags: The decision has been made to obtain flags to be flown from vehicle aerials whilst on official club trips etc. Price will be approx \$15 per item. Rosalie supplied two examples, ie rectangular and penant shape and members were asked their preference. The penant shape was the most popular (by show of hands) and RH will proceed with order. Numbers to be confirmed.
- John Partridge raised the issue of the closure of the O'Tooles area and advised that Little O'Tooles would be open for base camp for the Training Weekend. He has been in touch with the Association with regard to working bees in the area before Christmas and we need volunteers to help with this work. Also suggested that other clubs be contacted to co-ordinate further working bees. The DRE is very short-staffed and this would be an excellent opportunity to be involved in the regeneration of an area so popular with our club.
- Christmas Party: Donations required for hamper. Bring to next meeting.

RAFFLE:

Tickets sold by Derek Hymas and won by:

Tom Brachna 1st Prize: 12 Volt Impact Wrench Kit
Ken Pitcher 2nd Prize: T-shirt, Cap, Video & Sticker
Roger Baird 3rd Prize: T-shirt, Cap, Video & Sticker

A HUGE thank you to Highway Tyre Service for donating all raffle prizes.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 11 November 2003 at Dandenong Library Meeting Room.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER

Saturday 25th Bowling Night Rosalie Hughes

Tuesday 28th Committee Meeting Ian Warburton

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st to Cup Weekend Trip John Partridge

Tuesday 4th Collins Hut and area
(see attached Trip Data Form)

Tuesday 11th Club Meeting John Partridge

Friday 14th- Macallister River Carl Surtees

Sunday 16th

Friday 21st to Annual Mayford Trip Ashley Martin

Sunday 23rd

Tuesday 25th Committee Meeting Roger Baird

Saturday 29th Christmas Party Rosalie Hughes

DECEMBER

Tuesday 2nd Club Meeting John Partridge

Tuesday 9th Committee Meeting Steve Boyle

Saturday 13th Oxfam Christmas Tree
Delivery Ashley Martin

JANUARY

Saturday 24th to Monday 26th Australia Day W/end Mt Hotham Area
Michael Rodger
(see attached Trip Data Form)

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3rd Club Meeting John Partridge

Tuesday 10th Committee Meeting TBC

Saturday 28th Bush Dance Rosalie Hughes

4WD INSURANCE

The ANFWDC Insurance Program is available to all members of the VFWDC and other affiliated four wheel drive clubs.

To obtain an insurance quote, the agents – TCIS – require you to fax details regarding your vehicle one month prior to seeking insurance.

See the Club Insurance Officer, Gerrard Clarke, for relevant form and further information.



VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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Free Wheeling is now available (in pdf format) on the VFWDC web site each month. Just go to www.vfwdc.com

FORTHCOMING TRIP INFORMATION

MACALISTER RIVER/BUTCHER COUNTRY etc

Date: 14-16 November 2003
Trip Leader: Carl Surtees –
Destination: Macalister River
Meeting Place: McDonalds Pakenham
Time: 1.00pm Friday 14/11 or 7.30am Saturday 15/11
Grade: C+ B / C
Equipment: Basic recovery gear
Radio Channel: Ch. 12
Trip Activities: Mainly driving.

ANNUAL MAYFORD FISHING TRIP

Date: 21-23 November 2003
Trip Leader: Ashley Martin
Destination: Mayford
Meeting Place: TBA
Time: TBA
Grade: B
Equipment: Basic recovery; fishing rod.
Radio Channel: Ch. 12
Trip Activities: The annual fishing trip is back. Mayford is on the Dargo High Plains road and the track leading into the area is closed during the winter months. It re-opens toward the end of November but we will need to confirm whether the track will be open for this particular weekend. If so, as it is a long drive some members will leave on Friday morning to take advantage of the weekend.



Date: Saturday 29 November 2003
Trip Leader: Rosalie Hughes
Destination: Gilwell Park, Gembrook
Time: From 1pm onwards/Dinner served at 7pm.
Equipment: Chairs, crockery, cutlery, and of course refreshments! Also camping gear if you plan to stay o/nite.
Radio Channel: Ch. 12
Trip Activities: You will have received the flyer with the October newsletter which contains details of locality, costings etc. This year, the afternoon activities will be somewhat different as we will be hosting a number of children/parents from underprivileged families. There will be games etc during the day and of course Santa will visit. We really would like to see a good turnout from members for this year's party, so let Rosalie know asap if you are coming along to celebrate.



REMINDER



CHRISTMAS HAMPER DONATIONS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING ALONG YOUR DONATIONS TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.



CHRISTMAS TREE DELIVERY



Volunteers are required for delivery of Christmas Trees on **Saturday 13 December 2003** (Normally takes around half a day)

Please let Ashley know – Tel: 9540 0007 – whether you are able to assist as we need to provide your details to Oxfam by the end of November.

Pick-up point is the Scout Hall in Pakenham Street, Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H12) before 11.00am.

** SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE **



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TRIP REPORTS

ADVANCED TRAINING WEEKEND 10-12 October 2003

Trip Leader:	Ashley & Brian	100S Cruiser
Participants:	John & Hayden	GU Patrol
	Mark	60S Cruiser
	Murray	80S Cruiser
	James	Jeep
	Ron	Troopy
	Derek & Daniel	Disco
	Anthony	Prado

On Friday at 6:30pm we met at Golden Arches in Pakenham. We headed off after 7:00 towards Moe. After Murray briefly went AWOL, we caught up at Moe and then onto the Stockyard Pub where we had a nice meal over a cold beer. On our way down to the dam wall Ashley picked us up on the radio and soon joined us. We met up with Ron at Little O'Tooles who had the camp fire going for us. We set up camp and had a few quiet beers afterwards. Some of the guys decided to stay up until 3.00am while the more sensible ones went to bed around 1.00am.

Saturday morning woke up around 8am. We enjoyed a lazy breakfast jockeying for position on Ron's bush-bq.



We ran through some theory and checked recovery points on each vehicle – what recovery gear was carried on each. Derek and Daniel rolled up shortly after. We went for a short drive to find a fairly steep hill to practice some stall recovery.

We then went back to camp to pick up the rest of the group and set off for a drive. From camp we went onto Flats Track then left onto Williamson Spur Road. Found some nice steep hills and got out of the vehicles to discuss how to identify the best line and approach. We turned right onto Pheasant

Track which we found was a steep track with a few rock ledges. By the time I got there Murray was attempting to get up, with Ashley and James already at the top. After a few more attempts Murray decided to go around the difficult track and let Daniel have a go.

The Disco got over the first rock ledge but lost too much momentum and was forced to have another go. On the next attempt, Daniel approached with a bit more speed but ended up stuck in the same place with the engine stalled. The Disco had become turned around a bit and was now facing diagonally up the hill. Our instructors thought that this was a good opportunity to demonstrate the hand winch.



Ashley & James hard at it...



Then Murray has a go...

After we set up the winch and as we were easing the Disco down so that he could safely straighten up safely, three trail bikes turned up. We asked them to wait a few minutes as we had finished the demonstration and were wrapping things up anyway.

However, one of the trail bike riders decided that he couldn't wait so he tried to slip past us. I was still in the process of rolling up the cable and the bike

came roaring up the hill. I reluctantly got out of his way and he dropped his bike. He muttered something about staying off the track and then had a second attempt. This time he ended up dropping his bike in the same place and as he jumped on his bike to roll down the hill he lost control and had to drop it again to avoid rearranging the panels and paint-work on Derek's Disco. Mark had a word to him to calm him down and they decided to take an alternative route. Johnno was next to attempt the hill and made it look easy as he showed us how it was done. Ron decided to give it a miss, so it was my turn next. The first attempt got me stuck on the first rock ledge and I managed to stall it (yes an auto!).

The second attempt was a lot of fun. The advice of everyone was "Give it Heaps" and so I did.



Anthony goes for it...

I scrambled up the hill and as I walked back down to watch Mark come up I was grinning from ear to ear. Mark stalled on the first attempt but also made it look easy on his second go, bouncing up the ledges. From there we turned left on Walhalla Road and left again onto Dream Creek Track.

Where the track crossed the Aberfeldy River there was a very steep approach down the bank. We were forced to crawl along until we fell into the ditch causing everyone's right rear wheel to get more air time than Michael Jordan.

After the river it was left on North East Track then left again on Williamson Spur Road.



Murray tiptoes into the river.

We turned right onto S Track and followed this to Donnelly Creek Track, gathering firewood on the way. We then turned left and went into O'Tooles Flat to survey the damage that had been done by a few irresponsible Four Wheel Drivers. From there we headed back to camp. When we arrived at camp we found that another vehicle with a quad bike had also set up camp at Little O'Tooles. There was evidence (particularly on Murray's tent) that they had hooned around the campsite a bit on the quad bike. A couple of the guys had a word to them suggesting that this was not an appropriate thing to do in the one remaining camp left in the area. I wasn't present at the discussion but nothing else was mentioned of it that evening.

The fire was stoked and soon we were all preparing dinner and looking at the multitudes of pictures and video from the days activities. Twice Derek had to warn us about our campfire conversation not being appropriate, but we soon consumed enough liquid refreshment to bring it up to its normal standard. If I told you we were talking about babies and cooking I doubt you would believe me anyway.

It was a much earlier night as most of us went to bed before midnight.

The next morning was another leisurely start with the sun making a welcome appearance. After breakfast we packed up all the gear and headed out towards home. After about 30 mins of travel, Daniel noticed that the wheel nuts on the Disco were loose. Upon closer inspection we saw that all the wheel nuts on the passenger side of his car were loose. Derek tightened up as best he could on the steep S Track and finished the job off properly on some more even ground. We have our suspicions about someone loosening them, but of course it is hard to prove.

Back on Williamson Spur, onto North East and then Fultons. We stopped at the Thompson Dam and had a quick bite to eat while we reinflated our tyres. We then said our farewells and headed back home. We all had a great weekend and learnt a bit on the way.

Thanks to Johnno, Ashley and Mark for their instruction.

Anthony VB

CAR RALLY
28 SEPTEMBER 2003

A big THANK-YOU to Dean for all his help and paper work.

Roll Call:

Dean Pettigrew
Ray and Dawn Brown
Rebekah and Craig Pettigrew, with Diana and Shane Arnheim
Glenn and Jacki Hughes, with Deborah Hughes and Damian Smith
Steve Pitcher and Nicole O'Connor-Gun
Aline, Anthony and Riley Van Buiten
Susan and Graeme Lyne
David and Joanne Dawn
Tanya and Steve Utting
Chris, Karyl and Thomas McGlenn
James, Kathryn Callum and Olivia Holden
David and Rosalie with CD Hughes and Jason Barry and Yvonne Hempston (Misty and Jake)

Arrived at the weighbridge, with four cars already there. Last to arrive was Rosalie and David (we were not) (Rosalie could have chosen a better dress sense for the day!)

First car left at 9.00am, followed by the rest at 5 minute intervals. After that Dean went off to buy some lunch, and Dawn and myself had a little tour to see who was getting lost. A few vehicles had to do U turns. Then Dawn and myself headed to McDonalds before heading off to Tarrago Reservoir to wait for them all to arrive.

David and Joanne were first to arrive, followed by the rest of the gang.

While Dean and I were working out all the points, everyone else decided to eat lunch – some had barbeques, chickens, rolls and sandwiches.

All three lads – Thomas, Callum and Riley – I noticed were having a great time.

Dean and I ate some lunch, and then it was time to announce the Winner and hand out the Trophies:

First went to James, Kathryn, Callum and Olivia
Second went to Rosalie (being the Driver) David, CD and Jason, followed by

Third: Aline, Anthony and Riley

Fourth: Rebekah, Craig, Diana and Shane

Fifth: Glenn, Jacki, Deborah and Damian

Sixth: David and Joanne

Seventh: Chris, Kayrl and Thomas

Eighth: Steven and Nicole

Sharing Ninth place were Sue, Graeme, Steve and Tanya

With Barry and Yvonne (Misty and Jake) opening the "emergency envelope"

Top weather! Top Day, Thank you to everyone for your participation.

Ray and Dean

P.S. Good luck James for next year's Car Rally.



The group relaxing in the sunshine...



and second place goes to... Rosalie proudly shows off her trophy!

A blonde said:

"I was worried that my mechanic might try to rip me off. I was so relieved when he told me all I needed was turn-signal fluid." !!!